

Narragansett Police Department

40 Caswell Street, Narragansett, RI 02882

EFFECTIVE
March 16, 2008

LAST REVISED
March 10, 2020

SCHEDULED REVIEW
March 10, 2023

Policy 310.01

PATROL SHOTGUN

01 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for police officers regarding the use of department shotguns while on duty.

02 Policy

This policy is to ensure that all personnel who utilize shotguns will adhere to established procedures designed to ensure safety and proficiency.

03 Procedures

- A. The Narragansett Police Department has selected 14th Remington 870P Marine Magnum 12 gauge as the only department-authorized shotgun. The characteristics of the Mossberg Model 590A1 include it is pump action with a six (6) shot capacity and ghost sights.
 1. The department has selected 12 gauge 2 ¾ inch 1 oz. maximum low recoil rifled slug as the authorized ammunition.
 2. Only department issued shotguns will be used on patrol or when necessary in response to a high threat incident as so approved and ordered by the Chief of Police or his appointed designee. Officers will abide by all regulations listed in the departments "Use of Force" policy #300.01.
 3. A Narragansett Police Firearms Division approved Rack, Locker or other carrying device shall be made available for certified police officers to use in their assigned cruisers.
 4. Officers will inspect the shotgun prior to their tour of duty.
 5. The Narragansett Police Firearms Division shall be responsible for the annual training and qualification with department shotguns.
 6. A qualification score of 80% or better on the practical and tactical courses of fire will be required to prove proficiency.

7. Prior to being authorized for the patrol shotgun agency personnel must be instructed on and issued copies of the department Use of Force Policy #300.01. This instruction and issuance will be documented in Power-DMS.
8. When shotguns are used on patrol they will be kept in “cruiser ready condition”. “Cruiser ready” means that the shotgun magazine is loaded with ammunition, but there is no round in the chamber and the safety is in the “safe” position. When needed, the officer only has to “rack” the slide in order to fire a round. In order to make the weapon cruiser safe the officer will visually and physically inspect the weapon to ensure it is empty. The magazine tube will then be fully loaded and the shotgun will be placed into the approved carrying device.
9. When shotguns are removed from their approved carrying device for deployment in the field they should be carried in the low ready or sling hang position at all times unless actively scanning for a threat then it will be carried in the high ready position until all threats have been ruled out. Then back to the low ready or sling hang position.
10. The Narragansett Firearm Division is responsible for instructing officers on the proper performance of the low ready, sling hang and high ready positions.
11. In the event shotguns are to be loaded or unloaded, the firearm clearing barrel will be utilized. The safety will be in the “safe” position and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.
12. If circumstances require an officer to load or unload a shotgun in the field, officers will put the safety in the “safe” position and keep the muzzle pointed to the ground. Officers should choose an area that would minimize the possibility of a ricochet (soft dirt etc.) in case of an accidental discharge. In order to render the weapon safe, after a round has been chambered, the officer should depress the cartridge stop located inside the receiver at the base of the magazine tube. This allows the rounds to slide out of the tube. Once all the rounds have been removed from the magazine tube, the officer should depress the action lock-lever and open the slide slowly and remove the round from the chamber. The officer should then visually and physically check the weapon to ensure there are no rounds in the chamber or the magazine tube. The officer should either return the empty weapon to the approved carrying device or make it “cruiser safe” and return it to the approved carrying device. Whenever a loaded or unloaded weapon is transported it will be in an approved carrying device.
13. In the event an officer is clearing the shotgun after a high stress incident, a second officer should be present to oversee the clearing of the weapon to ensure safety.
14. Defective shotguns, and damaged or lost cartridges will be reported immediately to the Officer-in-Charge. The O.I.C. will immediately notify a member of the firearms division.
15. Shotguns will be removed from cruisers unloaded and secured in the station shotgun rack before leaving cruisers at any location for maintenance or service.
16. Police cruisers containing a shotgun will be locked and secured when the vehicle is unattended.
17. The firearms division will inspect all patrol shotguns at least annually. Weapons will be serviced at any time necessary.

18. Report any use of the shotgun to a O.I.C and document the incident on a Response to Resistance/ Non-Compliance form. A copy of the form should also be forwarded to the Firearms Division as well so that the weapon can be cleaned.
19. If a department member has lapsed with respect to shotgun qualifications, then that officer will not use the shotgun until they have re-qualified.

By Order of:

Chief of Police